

News from Senator

BOB DOLE

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DOLE, BYRD SELECT SENATE OBSERVERS FOR ARMS TALKS WITH SOVIETS

WASHINGTON -Fulfilling the recommendation of their arms control resolution, unanimously approved by the Senate yesterday, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and Senate Minority Leader Robert C. Byrd today announced that a bipartisan group of Senators has been selected to join the official U.S. delegation as observers to any arms control negotiations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Although the resolution pledges Senate support for the upcoming Shultz/Gromyko meetings in Switzerland, the newly created observer team will not be going to Geneva.

Dole and Byrd joined together in the arms control resolution on the opening day of the 99th Congress. Their resolution, which hailed the Administration's commitment to arms control and pledged Senate support for the Geneva meetings, called for the respective party leaders in the Senate to appoint a team of Senate observers.

The following members have been appointed:

Chairman: Ted Stevens (R-Alaska)

Co-Chairman: Sam Nunn (D-Ga.)

Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.)
 Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.)
 Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.)
 Don Nickles (R-Okla.)

Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.)
 Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.)
 Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.)
 Albert Gore (D-Tenn.)

Senators Byrd and Dole, or their designees, will serve as ex-officio members of the Senate delegation. Within this group, Senators will serve as observers on a rotating basis, to be determined by the Chairman and Co-Chairman. Senators Dole and Byrd have authorized Senators Stevens and Nunn to work out additional details with the Administration.

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"This group of outstanding Senators has the kind of expertise and commitment needed to deal with one of the most important issues facing this nation. Our team underscores the deep interest of the Senate, as an institution, in nuclear arms control," Dole said. "We intend to uphold our constitutionally mandated role in helping shape and confirm our country's arms control policies."

"Any arms control agreement must be supported by a substantial national consensus to stand the test of time," Senator Byrd said. "The Senate's role is central to both the development of that consensus and to the ratification or approval of any treaty or agreement. The Senate will benefit by access to the negotiating sessions established on a regular basis. I believe the informal reactions and views of Senators to any ongoing talks will be of real value to our negotiating team at a time before final decisions on specific issues are made."

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